

Message Text

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LIMDIS

FOLL REPEAT CINCPACREP GUAM 192000Z MAY 75 ACTION SECSTATE:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N00000//

LIMDIS

FOR IATF

STATE 107853

CINCPAC REP GUAM 180815Z MAY 1975

1. (C) SUMMARY. EVERY AVAILABLE MEANS BEING USED TO FURTHER PROGRESS OF INTERNATIONALIZATION EFFORT HERE. IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DESIRING TO TRAVEL TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN U.S. WORKING WELL. LIMITED AND OVEREXTENDED ICEM MANPOWER MAJOR CURRENT PROBLEM. GREATLY PLEASED WITH ICEM PERFORMANCE.

2. OVERVIEW. AS INDICATED REFTTEL B, 1,001 VIETNAMESE OR CAMBODIAN REFUGEES HAVE DEPARTED FOR THIRD COUNTRIES. ICEM CURRENTLY HAS NEARLY 1800 PERSONS REGISTERED WITH RANGE OF 19 COUNTRIES. TOTAL EFFORT FALLS INTO FOUR AREAS: 1. PRESENTING INFORMATION TO THE REFUGEES THAT OPPORTUNITIES DO EXIST FOR SETTLEMENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES (THROUGH SIGNS, PA SYSTEM, NEWSPAPER AND WORD-OF-MOUTH);

2. (C) IDENTIFYING AND REGISTERING SUCH PERSONS WHO HAVE REASONABLE
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CHANCE OF ADMITTANCE; 3. SEPARATING SUCH PERSONS IN HOLDING AREAS

TO AVOID HAVING THEM SWEEPED AWAY TO U.S. AT LAST MOMENT, AND 4, APPLYING PRESSURE TO LEGATIONS ALREADY HERE TO STAY LONGER AND ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES. OUR PRIMARY NEED IS FOR WASHINGTON TO UNDERTAKE EFFORTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE OF ICEM GENEVA FOR COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT REFUGEES REGISTERING HERE.

3. (C) PROBLEM AREAS. IN INITIAL CONFUSION OF EFFORT TO MOVE PEOPLE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE FROM GUAM TO CONUS PROCESSING CENTERS, MANY PERSONS WITH DESIRE TO SETTLE IN THIRD COUNTRIES WOUND UP STATESIDE. FUNCTIONS 1 - 3 PARAGRAPH 2 HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY DEVELOPED TO PREVENT THIS IN ALL BUT RARE CASES, UNLESS PERSON MAKES DECISION AFTER ARRIVAL CONUS. MAJOR PROBLEM NOW IS ICEM'S LIMITED MANPOWER. THEIR TOTAL PAID STAFF IS SIX, WITH A FEW VOLUNTEERS. AS THEY WORK IN THREE LOCATIONS, THEY HAVE DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING UP WITH REGISTRATION AND SUBSEQUENT TELEXING. THEY WILL CONCENTRATE AT OROTE AS SOON AS FEASIBLE TO HELP EASE PROBLEM.

4. (U) ICEM. SINCE ARRIVAL EARLY ON, ICEM HAS TAKEN FIRM LEAD IN INTERNATIONALIZATION EFFORT WITH LITTLE OR NO PROMPTING NEEDED. CHRISTENSEN HAS SET UP AN EFFICIENT OPERATION DESPITE MANPOWER SHORTAGE, AND HAS ESTABLISHED AN INDEPENDENT CREDIBILITY AND VIABILITY. ICEM NOW BEGINNING TO GET RESPONSES TO TELEXES SENT TO THIRD COUNTRIES CONCERNING ADMITTANCE OF REFUGEES (E.G., 38 FOR FRANCE). VOLAG INTEGRATION INTO ICEM OPERATION IS MINIMAL. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT ICEM/GENEVA HAS GIVEN CHRISTENSEN GOOD COOPERATION IN MAKING DRIVES FOR FRENCH AND OTHERS TO ACCEPT REFUGEES REGISTERING HERE.

5. (U) UNHCR. GORDON-LENNOX AND CANH PERSONALLY COMPETENT AND HARD-WORKING, HOWEVER, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, UNHCR/GENEVA STANCE ON OVERALL ISSUE HAS REDUCED SCOPE OF WORK TO REGISTERING, INTERVIEWING AND TELEXING INFORMATION ON THOSE WHO WISH TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO GIVE UNHCR AS MUCH COOPERATION AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT MAKING IT APPEAR THAT THE U.S. IS PUSHING PEOPLE TO RETURN TO VIETNAM.

6. (U) ICRC. ICRC PRESENCE LOW-KEY AND TRAVEL DOCUMENT PROCEDURES NOW OPERATING WELL. GROSS HAS GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH ICEM IN THIS REGARD. GROSS ALSO HAS VOLUNTEERED TO HELP RETURN TCNS TO THEIR NATIVE COUNTRIES OR TO GAIN THEM ADMITTANCE ELSEWHERE.

7. (U) ARC. AMERICAN RED CROSS HAS HAD LIMITED ROLE IN INTERNATIONALIZATION EFFORT. BEFORE ICEM COULD DEVOTE MANPOWER, AND AT CAPMS WHERE ICEM OR VOLAGS NOT ALWAYS PRESENT, ARC HAS SERVED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND FORMS TO PERSONS DESIRING TO GO TO THIRD COUNTRIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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8. (U) IRC. WHILE HERE, AMBASSADOR CECIL LYON PROVED ABLE AND TIRELESS CASEWORKER IN CONJUNCTION WITH ICEM. CARROL MORRIS HAS ALSO DEVELOPED AN ADEQUATE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH ICEM. HOWEVER, IRC'S MAIN EFFORT HAS BEEN ON BEHALF OF ITS OWN PERSONNEL.

9. (U) CRS. CRS REPRESENTATIVE FRANK PAVIS, NOW DEPARTED, NEVER REALLY GOT UNTRACKED. HE ARRIVED WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING ONLY CAMBODIANS AND ONLY GRADUALLY BEGAN WORKING WITH ICEM. STEPHEN LEE HAS TEMPORARILY DEPARTED FOR HONG KONG, BUT WE EXPECT HIS RETURN

SHORTLY. LEE HAS MORE EXPERIENCE WITH TYPE WORK ICEM PERFORMING HERE.

10. (C) CANADIAN IMMIGRATION. SINCE ARRIVAL MAY 5 CANADIANS HAVE SET UP EFFICIENT OPERATION AND MOVED 926 PERSONS TO DATE. THEIR 18 PERSON DELEGATION HEADED BY CHARLES ROGERS CURRENTLY PLANS TO DEPART BY NEXT SATURDAY. AS DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTING, WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE HERE TO CAJOLE THEM INTO STAYING LONGER BUT LEVERAGE IS NEEDED AT WASHINGTON/OTTAWA LEVEL. IF EFFORT TO RETAIN CANADIANS FAILS, A TOTAL OF SOME 1400 PERSONS WILL DEPART FROM GUAM TO CANADA. AFTER CANADIAN DEPARTURE, ICEM WILL REGISTER PERSONS DESIRING TO GO TO CANADA WITH VIABLE CHANCE OF ADMITTANCE, AND CANADIANS MAY THEN SEND REPRESENTATIVE FROM HONG KONG IN 7 - 10 DAYS FOR FINAL SCREENING IF DEEMED WORTHWILE. THE CANADIANS, OF COURSE, GENERALLY HAVE CHOSEN THOSE PERSONS WITH SKILLS NEEDED IN THEIR COUNTRY.

11. (C) AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATIONS. GREATEST FIASCO OF INTERNATIONALIZATION EFFORT TO DATE HAS BEEN THE ABNORMAL SHRINKAGE OF ACCEPTANCE PARAMETERS AND SUBSEQUENT EARLY RECALL OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICERS SENT HERE. IF EFFORT TO CONTINUE PRESSURE ON GOA TO ACCEPT REFUGEES, ICEM WILL CONTINUE TO REGISTER PERSONS WITH CLOSE TIES TO AUSTRALIA AND TELEX INFORMATION TO CANBERRA. SWEET SENDS.
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